

## Abstracts

141

there were issues requiring discussion in 46% of patients. Commonly cited issues were related to holidays, sex life, tiredness, mobility, and depression. These issues were either discussed with the nurse immediately in person (65%), or the patient was contacted by telephone (28%) or post (7%). Of those patients who were contacted, 70% were interested in discussing the issues, of whom 3 were referred to andrology clinics and 11 were to be reviewed at a future appointment. **CONCLUSION:** Measurement of QoL is feasible and useful in the routine clinical nursing practice.

## PRN5

### QUALITY OF LIFE AND HEALTH CARE RESOURCE UTILIZATION IN OVERACTIVE BLADDER PATIENTS WITH URGE INCONTINENCE

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Urge incontinence (UI) significantly affects the physical, psychological, and economic aspects of the lives of affected individuals. **OBJECTIVE:** This study assessed the impact of UI on patients' health-related quality of life (HR-QoL) and resource utilization. **METHODS:** A questionnaire, administered to ambulatory out-patients diagnosed with UI, collected demographic information, micturition and leakage data, HR-QoL and resource use estimates. HR-QoL was measured using the EuroQoL (EQ-5D) and King's Health Questionnaire (KHQ). The KHQ is a disease-specific instrument which explores eight domains (health perceptions, incontinence impact, role, physical and social limitations, personal relationships, emotions, sleep/energy). **RESULTS:** Patients (n = 60) were 62.5 ± 15.5 years old and 95% female. During a typical 24-hour period, patients experienced a median of 3 leakages and a mean of 13 micturitions, 3 of which occurred nocturnally. Eighty-three percent of patients felt their condition interfered with their usual activities. The average utility value determined using the EQ-5D was 0.68. Of the domains of the KHQ, patients indicated the greatest impairment in the incontinence impact domain. Other domains considerably affected were sleep/energy and role and physical limitations. Patients had 102 visits with healthcare providers and 68 tests/procedures in the 4 weeks preceding the study. Feminine hygiene products, incontinence pads and diapers were used by 43%, 32% and 8% of patients at a median of 16, 12 and 7 units per week, respectively. **CONCLUSIONS:** UI is a major obstacle to patients' quality of life, specifically impeding their sleep and energy level, in addition to causing role and physical impairments. UI also has considerable impact on resource utilization.

## PRN6

### DEVELOPING A SPECIFIC HRQL INSTRUMENT FOR OVERACTIVE BLADDER

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There are three limitations in the application of current HRQL questionnaires related to overactive bladder (OAB): 1) no OAB-specific questionnaire has been developed in an OAB population with patients experiencing OAB symptoms but not incontinence; 2) the sample populations on which such questionnaires have been tested have been restricted to primarily clinical patients with incontinence; 3) past questionnaires have been developed in female-only populations. **OBJECTIVE:** To initiate the development of an OAB-specific HRQL questionnaire. **METHODS:** Participants were recruited via newspaper advertisement and screened to ensure they met the study criteria (predominantly OAB-dry). The groups were gender-specific: Group 1 = 7 men; Group 2 = 9 women. The participants were asked open-ended questions on symptoms (frequency, urgency and leakage), coping behaviors and life impact. Data were analyzed using content analysis. A draft questionnaire was developed and reviewed by 88% (14) of the focus group participants who indicated that the questionnaire captured their thoughts and experiences. **RESULTS:** Participants reported significant impact in their HRQL due to OAB in a variety of domains. The symptoms of frequency, urgency, and nocturia caused significant alterations in productivity, travel/commuting, sleep, physical activities, social functioning, relationships, and psychological well-being, as well as causing a number of coping behaviors. Most issues were similar between men and women. Men reported interrupted sleep as the greatest area of HRQL impact; women were unable to identify a single prominent issue or domain. **CONCLUSION:** This instrument reflects numerous concerns and issues identified by OAB focus group participants that were not found in previously developed questionnaires. It is currently in the validation phase for future research.

## PRN7

### RELIABILITY OF REPORTING ON COPING STRATEGIES AND IMPACT OF OVERACTIVE BLADDER

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**OBJECTIVE:** Overactive bladder (OAB) is a highly prevalent condition that can result in substantial changes to an individual's daily activities. Behavioral changes to cope with OAB symptoms are likely to occur early in the natural history of OAB. In later stages, OAB tends to